

March 2, 2017
Susan B. Linker
CEO Our Companions Animal Rescue

Opposition to

SB 522 N ACT AUTHORIZING BEAR HUNTING IN CONNECTICUT.
&
HB 5499 AN ACT AUTHORIZING SUNDAY HUNTING ON PRIVATE LANDS.

Dear Co-Chair Kennedy, Co-Chair Miner, Co-Chair Demicco, Vice Chair Flexer, Vice Chair Gresko, Vice Chair Somers, Ranking Member Harding, and Honorable Members of the Environment Committee, I thank you for giving me the opportunity to testify.

I care deeply about animals and feel strongly about respecting all living creatures including wildlife. For that reason I oppose SB 522 and HB 5499.

SB522 would allow bear hunting. There are non-violent ways to live among wildlife. With respect to bears, education is key and should be our State's focus. Teaching people how to remove things that attract bears like accessible trash bins and how to use humane deterrents are simple and effective ways to reduce conflicts with bears.

I also oppose HB 5499 which would expand Sunday hunting to allow use of shotguns, rifles, and muzzleloaders. People who care about animals and deplore violence should be able to enjoy a day in the woods. Hunters make up a very small population of people in our state and far more Connecticut residents are animal lovers who want to enjoy nature in peace.

Thank you for allowing me the opportunity to testify on these important bills.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'S. Linker', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Susan B. Linker, Bloomfield, CT 06002